



# 2023 IMPACT REPORT



[APIFM.org](https://APIFM.org) | [@forwardapi](https://twitter.com/forwardapi)





## MISSION

We cultivate healthy, long-lasting, and vibrant Asian and Pacific Islander communities through community-centered engagement, education, and advocacy.

## VISION

We want a world where Asian and Pacific Islander communities – and all communities of color – have full power to access good health and a healthy environment.



Dear APIFM friends,

We're happy to share API Forward Movement's new Impact Report with you. It was another year of growth and if you're receiving this, you played a key role in supporting our programs as a partner, funder, donor or volunteer - so thank you!

In 2023, we continued to engage communities through our food and environmental justice programs. Food Roots Harvest, our regional food hub maintained relationships with farmers, produce recovery and composting organizations to deliver culturally relevant produce to low-income neighborhoods, clinics, schools, food pantries and restaurants. Food Roots Nourish continued with CalFresh education and enrollment (check out our CalFresh bingo card on page 8), vaccination outreach and developed a new Farm to PreSchool project. Sustainable San Gabriel Valley (SSGV) hosted an exciting new Environmental Justice Summer Institute for SGV youth and continued to engage residents on clean air and a multi-benefit stormwater capture project. We also worked to improve access to open spaces, language justice and informed an LA County public works equity initiative.

Looking ahead, we continue our commitment to improving APIFM as a good place to work through staff development training focused on facilitation skills and community engagement, as well as our ongoing focus on pay equity.

We invite you to support APIFM's vital work by becoming a monthly sustainer ([www.apifm.org/sustain](http://www.apifm.org/sustain)) or making a one-time donation ([www.apifm.org/donate](http://www.apifm.org/donate)).

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Heng Lam Foong', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Heng Lam Foong, MS  
Co-Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kyle Tsukahira', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Kyle Tsukahira, MPA  
Co-Director



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Asian Pacific Islander  
Forward Movement  
is a division of

Special Service  
for Groups, Inc.



# MULTIGENERATIONAL COMMUNITY IMPACT



**PRESCHOOLERS** grew their own seasonal fruits and vegetables at school and explored culturally relevant foods.



**TEENS** in the San Gabriel Valley learned about local air, land, water, and climate justice issues impacting their communities.



**ELDERS** stayed healthy and active at monthly tai chair classes in Chinatown and explored nature through community hikes in the San Gabriel Valley.

## SERVING COMMUNITY MEMBERS OF ALL AGES



**FAMILIES** advocated for safer streets at local City Council meetings.



**YOUNG ADULTS** volunteered their time in a variety of community initiatives to raise awareness, participate in studies, and support community outreach.



# FOOD ROOTS HARVEST

CALFRESH HEALTHY LIVING  
COMMUNITY FOOD HUB

## CALFRESH HEALTHY LIVING (CFHL)

Our team facilitated access to free gleaned produce for low-income, people of color communities in LA County through meaningful approaches and cultural accommodations while simultaneously reducing food waste by diverting gleaned fruits and vegetables from landfills to dinner tables. Produce was distributed through 12 CBO, clinic, park, and school partners. Additionally, inedible produce was composted by two local partners.



“ I truly like this distribution because they [APIFM and Los Angeles State Historic Park staff] like to take care of us and make sure there are chairs put out to make us feel comfortable.

- CalFresh distribution recipient

Here are our 2023 accomplishments:

- 171,140 lbs of produce distributed
- 2,618 lbs of food waste reduction
- 3 CBO partnerships
- 3 local park partnerships
- 3 local school partnerships
- 3 community healthy clinics partnerships







## COMMUNITY FOOD HUB

Access to culturally relevant foods is critical to the food justice work we do.

Over the past year...

- We sourced and distributed over **125,000 lbs** of culturally relevant produce
- Provided **\$187,500** to local Asian American farmers

We distributed to over **18 institutions**, including:

- Local hospitals
- Schools
- Restaurants
- Nonprofits
- Faith based organizations
- Affordable housing units.

“

It's been a wonderful partnership that's been well received by our clients, many of whom are elderly Asian immigrants who appreciate foods that they are familiar with and know how to cook and enjoy.

- Christine Najung Lee, AYC Deputy Director





# FOOD ROOTS NOURISH

COMMUNITY HEALTH  
CALFRESH OUTREACH & EDUCATION  
FARM TO SCHOOL

## COMMUNITY HEALTH

Community Health Workers (CHWs) hosted and supported four vaccine events and launched a public immunization campaign in collaboration with Pacific Islander Health Partnership to encourage ongoing access to vaccines. CHWs continued to connect with community members through food distribution, healthy food preparation and CalFresh enrollment partnerships with faith based organizations that serve the Samoan & Tongan communities.



“Thank you for sharing places near my home where my family could get their updated vaccines. Now my family is safe and protected. We appreciate the work you are doing for the Tongan community. Malo aupito!

- Tongan community member from the South Bay





## CALFRESH OUTREACH & EDUCATION

We worked with community members from all walks of life, ranging from young families, people helping their elderly parents, college students, small business owners, older adults to people who are unhoused. We helped people to gather necessary documentation, and connect with the Department of Social Services to successfully submit their applications to receive CalFresh benefits. Our work didn't end there, we followed up, showed people how to use their EBT card to buy culturally relevant produce, and helped people renew their benefit status.

**We connected with over 100 community members about CalFresh benefit enrollment**







## FARM TO SCHOOL

This program launched at 5 underserved pre-schools in the San Gabriel Valley and Koreatown.

280 kids learned about healthy food and gardening through hands-on learning like:

- Singing
- Dancing
- Taste-testing
- Gardening

Families received:

- 5 lbs of free produce each month
- DIY home gardening kits

Families participated in:

- Quarterly healthy food workshops
- An annual community garden tour

**Schools grew over 50 seasonal fruits and veggies!**







# SUSTAINABLE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY

LAND

AIR

WATER

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUMMER INSTITUTE

## LAND

APIFM collaborated with Nature for All to bring 26 elders from Chinatown to the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Many elders face culturally relevant language access barriers when trying to access nature.

Our community members appreciate this program because we offer:

- Guided translated tours
- Food
- Transportation
- Opportunities to connect with others

**We hosted 4 hikes with 68 community members in LA this year.**



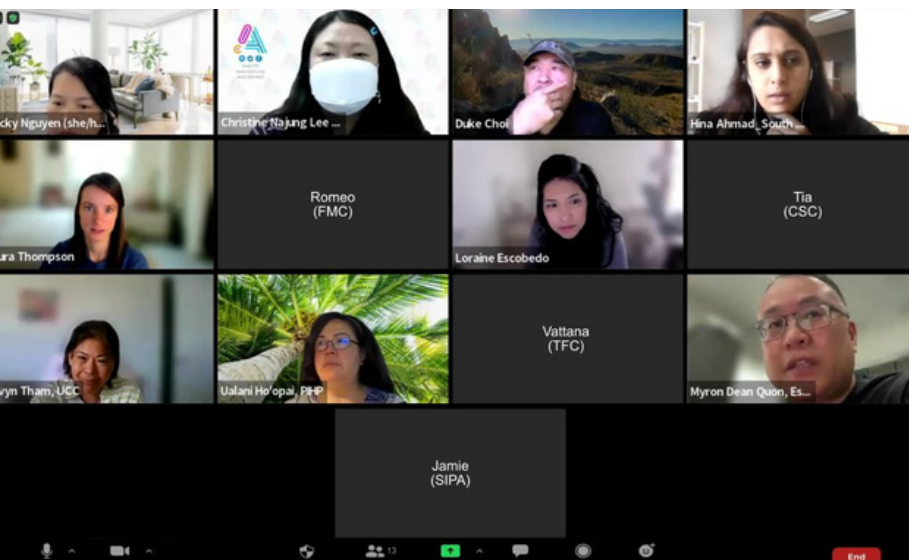


# AIR

The Clean Air SGV team engaged residents in Alhambra and Monterey Park, focusing on residents in disadvantaged neighborhoods and near high-pollution areas. This collaborative effort raised awareness, identified community "hotspots," and led residents to participate in our air quality studies, underscoring the community's active role in the Clean Air SGV project.



This year, the Tobacco Prevention (ToP) team's CAPITALISE project made valuable progress in uncovering disparities in tobacco policy adoption across LA & Orange Counties. Our dedicated Community Advisory Board ensures our project resonates with the API communities we serve. By working together, analyzing real-world data, and developing community-driven solutions, we empower API communities to advocate for change and reduce the burden of tobacco-related health issues.





# WATER

Water is Life (WIL) engaged the SGV community on water education and water capture in 2022 & 2023, developing infographics, blogs and videos in Chinese, English, Spanish and Vietnamese, and the distribution of rain barrels to residents. This led to the development of a multi benefit water capture project around Fremont Elementary School with a primary focus on addressing pedestrian safety & air quality concerns due to the school's proximity to the I-10 Freeway Ramp.

WIL collaborated with

**135**

community members to develop a multi-benefit water capture project.

We secured

**120**

public comments to advocate for safer streets in Alhambra.



“

...traffic in this area is already dangerous - with cars often cutting us off in crosswalks. I have personally witnessed pedestrians that have gotten hit, and pets that have been run over.

- Fremont Parent





# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUMMER INSTITUTE (EJSI)

The program equipped 15 high school students to become environmental justice champions and the next generation of leaders for a healthier, more just future. Participants learned firsthand about environmental inequalities affecting their communities by exploring:

- Environmental justice 101
- Air quality & pollution
- Water capture & conservation
- Public lands protection & access to green space
- Climate change & resilience

Special thanks to our guest speakers from Arlington Gardens, CultivaLA, LA Compost, Nature for All, and Tree People!



“ [Student’s] informative descriptions of the field trips provided us, as parents, with valuable knowledge about our community. Your well-structured field trips and presentations made each module easy to follow and will definitely have a positive impact to her future.

- 2023 EJSI Parent





“

Thank you so much for all your hard work as well as all the people in charge. I am so grateful to have met you guys through this opportunity!

- 2023 EJSI Student



# SPECIAL PROJECTS

## LA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS EQUITY IN INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE LANGUAGE JUSTICE CHINATOWN FOOD ECOSYSTEM PROJECT

### LA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS EQUITY IN INFRASTRUCTURE INITIATIVE

APIFM was one of five anchor CBOs who collaborated with the Liberty Hill Foundation to identify and address disparities across LA County in the planning, delivery, and distribution of Public Works investments and services. APIFM engaged with 600+ community members through workshops, surveys and focus groups.



### LANGUAGE JUSTICE

APIFM advocated for language justice through multiple coalitions including participation in the LA County Department of Public Health, Center for Health Equity's Language Justice Workgroup and the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Language Access & Health Equity Collaborative, a statewide coalition led by Asian Resources Inc. APIFM developed a language rights flier and role of interpreter flier which was translated into 13 API languages in collaboration with over 8 API community based organizations.



### CHINATOWN FOOD ECOSYSTEM PROJECT

The Teen Council at the Chinatown Branch Library collaborated with APIFM to distribute over 2,900 lbs of fresh Asian produce and 2,210 eggs to 110 residents in single room occupancy units and assess Chinatown's local food resources and ecosystem.





# APIFM ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

**JESSICA JINN**  
CHAIR  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
DEFENSE COUNCIL

**LESLIE TOY**  
VICE CHAIR  
COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**DAPHNE TAN, DPT**  
SECRETARY  
HEALTHFIT

**JOCELYN ESTIANDAN**  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
DEPT. OF PUBLIC HEALTH

**RANKO FUKUDA**  
CAREERWORK\$

**KATHRYN LEE**  
BANK OF SOUTHERN  
CALIFORNIA

**MICHAEL NGIM**  
PG&E

**SREE PONAMALA**  
EXPERIAN

**SISI ZHANG**  
PANDA RESTAURANT GROUP

**AVISHA PATEL**  
SOCALGAS  
BLP INTERN

**ALEXANDER TSAO**  
PANDA RESTAURANT GROUP







## OUR TEAM

**HENG LAM FOONG**  
CO-DIVISION DIRECTOR

**KYLE TSUKAHIRA**  
CO-DIVISION DIRECTOR

**DUKE CHOI**  
PROGRAM MANAGER  
Sustainable SGV

**LINDA HUYNH**  
PROGRAM MANAGER  
CalFresh Healthy Living &  
Food Roots Harvest

**LYNA VUONG**  
PROGRAM MANAGER  
Food Roots Nourish

**JE-SHOW YANG**  
PROGRAM MANAGER  
Sustainable SGV

**AMELIA VERNON**  
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

**CECILIA SU'A**  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

**CHARLES NGUYEN**  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
COORDINATOR

**CHRISTOPHER TENORIO**  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

**CLARISSA CHOY**  
COMMUNICATIONS  
COORDINATOR

**FREDDY RAMOS**  
DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR

**JEREMY GUAN**  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
COORDINATOR

**JEAN PARK**  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

**KEKE SULU**  
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

**KEVIN CORTEZ**  
DISTRIBUTION COORDINATOR

**LEAH PEREZ**  
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

**LOUISE FONUA**  
COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER

**NARE PARK**  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR

**PEGGY WANG**  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
COORDINATOR

**PHIL TIMOTEO**  
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT



# THANK YOU!

## 2023 SUPPORTERS

Our work is collective and we rely on community participation to move our vision forward. It's an honor to work in solidarity with you.

### APIFM SUSTAINERS

#### ROOTS

RANKO FUKUDA  
BRIAN KIM  
CAROL LEE  
JOANNA LEE  
MOMO TOMATO  
STAN TSUKAHIRA  
MARGARET WANG

#### FRESH

VIET BUI  
ELIZABETH BERGER  
JESSICA JINN  
CRAIG KANESHIRO  
BARBARA KIM  
ANDREA KIMURA  
CINDY LEE  
KATHERINE LEE  
MARK MASAOKA  
EMILY NG  
MICHAEL NGIM  
KATHY PHAM  
JACOB PHILLIPS  
SREE PONAMALA  
DOMINIC TOVAR  
LESLIE TOY  
ALEXANDER TSAO  
SABRINA YUNUS

#### ACTIVE

CARMEN CHAN  
JOANNE CHIN  
RALPH DEGALA  
JOCELYN ESTIANDAN  
HENG LAM FOONG  
LULUT GARCIA-LADIA  
KATHRYN LEE  
CONNIE LO  
LYDIA MA  
ANNE MANALILI  
LEAH MCGOWAN  
JENNIFER MING  
KERI NISHI  
JONATHON NOMACHI  
JENNY PARK  
CASH ONLY PRODUCTIONS  
ROSELMA SAMALA  
SHAY T D TAN  
MAY WANG  
SISI ZHANG





2023



# Family Dinner Sponsors

**SWEET POTATO - \$5,000**

**QUANTASY**  
+ ASSOCIATES



**BOK CHOY - \$2,500**



**UCI** 趙 Chao Family  
Comprehensive Cancer Center



**THAI BASIL - \$1,000**



## IN-KIND DONORS

Alina Nakano, Alyssa Carroll, Chase Valencia, Danish Khan, HealthFit, Jean Tom, Jennifer Ju, Jessica Wang, Jocelyn Estiandan, Kristine De la Cruz, LA Boulders, Lan Nguyen, Leanna Lin, Marukai Int'l, Sisi Zhang, Smallhold, Three Gems Tea, Yang's Kitchen, Yimin Teo, RD











## FOUNDATIONS

BEIM FOUNDATION  
 BUTTERFLY EQUITY FOUNDATION  
 CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
 CHINATOWN FIRECRACKER RUN  
 CEDARS-SINAI MEDICAL CENTER  
 CITY OF HOPE – COMMUNITY BENEFITS  
 COMMUNITY CATALYST  
 CONRAD N. HILTON FOUNDATION  
 LIBERTY HILL FOUNDATION  
 RESOURCES LEGACY FUND  
 THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT  
 WEINGART FOUNDATION

## NONPROFITS

ACTIVE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY  
 ASIAN AMERICAN PACIFIC ISLANDER  
 EQUITY ALLIANCE  
 ASIAN RESOURCES INC.  
 ASIAN YOUTH CENTER  
 CALIFORNIA FOOD & FARMING NETWORK  
 COUNCIL FOR WATERSHED HEALTH  
 NATURE FOR ALL  
 PACIFIC ASIAN COUNSELING SERVICES  
 THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE  
 TREEPEOPLE

## EDUCATION

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LOS  
 ANGELES  
 GARVEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 KYCC KIDS TOWN PRESCHOOL

## GOVERNMENT

CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD  
 CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD &  
 AGRICULTURE  
 CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
 AGENCY  
 CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND  
 PREVENTION  
 LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES API CAUCUS  
 LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
 PUBLIC HEALTH  
 US ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

## BUSINESSES

ELITE GRAPHICS  
 HEALTHFIT  
 GREENZONE  
 GU GROCERY  
 JOY  
 PINE AND CRANE – SILVERLAKE  
 PINE AND CRANE – DTLA  
 SENDER ONE CLIMBING  
 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON  
 THE ROOT CAUSE YOGA  
 YANG'S KITCHEN



# GET INVOLVED



## SUSTAIN US

Become an APIFM sustainer by making a monthly donation of as little as \$5 per month. Each dollar that is donated helps sustain our efforts in making real community change.



## VOLUNTEER WITH US

Join us in giving back to the community!  
Scan the QR code to sign up:



**FOLLOW US**  
**@FORWARDAPI**







ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER  
**FORWARD  
MOVEMENT**

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